



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Man Pleads Not Guilty to Raping, Killing Neighbor in 2012**

A 22-year-old man accused of raping and killing his neighbor pleaded not guilty yesterday, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Luis Fernando Diofron Lemus (dob 6/29/92) was charged with one count of murder in case VA126612.

The felony complaint includes special circumstance allegations that the killing was committed during the commission of a burglary and rape.

Additionally, the charging document includes a special allegation that Lemus personally used a deadly and dangerous weapon, a knife.

Deputy District Attorney Araceli Otero, who is assigned to the case, said on Aug. 10, 2012, Lemus allegedly broke into his neighbor's Norwalk home, then raped and fatally stabbed the 50-year-old woman.

Following the killing, the defendant fled to Guatemala where he remained for several years. Lemus was located in December 2014 and extradited to Los Angeles County four months later, the prosecutor added.

Lemus is scheduled to return to court on June 24 for a preliminary hearing setting in Department J of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Norwalk Branch. He currently remains in custody and is being held without bail.

If convicted, the defendant faces a maximum sentence of life in state prison without the possibility of parole.

The case is being investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

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## **About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.